ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BODMIN

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

BODMIN:
PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.

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TO THE BODMIN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1941.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—3,311.

Population—6,222 (Estimated).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the Rate Books – 1,279.

Rateable value—£27,453.

Sum represented by a penny rate – £111-15-5.

Social Conditions.

The town normally is residential and the marketing and shopping centre for a wide agricultural district, but since the war it is chiefly given over to Military activities.

Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

	For Infant Mortality.			For Birth Rate.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Live births	55	65	120	45	50	95
Legitimate	53	62	115	43	47	90
Illegitimate	2	3	5	2	3	5

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—
15·26

	M.	F.	Total.
Still births—	1	0	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 10·41.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	26	49	75

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—
12·05

There were no deaths from Puerpural Sepsis or other puerpural causes.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age—

	M.	F	Total.
Deaths	2	3	5
Legitimate	2	3	5

Death rate per 1,000 live births—41·66.

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	6
,,	Measles (all ages)	Nil
,,	Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,,	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The chief causes of death were—

Heart disease	25
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	10
Bronchitis	4
Appendicitis and other digestive diseases	5

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those of England and Wales :—

			England and Wales.
Birth rate	...	10·41	14·2
Death rate	...	12·05	12·9
Infantile death rate		41·66	5[illegible]

With the exception of a mild outbreak of Scarlet Fever in March, when six cases were notified, there has been very little epidemic disease.

Most of the cases notified were in public Institutions—the County Mental Hospital, the War Emergency Hospital, and the Maternity Emergency Hospital.

There was no School closure on account of epidemic disease.

General provision of Health Services.

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling (part time Officer), who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Wadebridge, Public Vaccinator and Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspectors and Borough Surveyors—
R. T. Buscombe. He is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. His duties have so largely increased owing to War conditions that it has been found necessary to supply him with a Clerk to assist in routine work.

Laboratory Facilities.

These remain the same as before.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is a St. John Motor Ambulance with fully equipped and trained personnel.

There are also County Ambulances for A.R.P. work and a number of civilian Motor Vans which have been adapted to carry stretchers in case of emergency.

Nursing in the Home.

Nurses are trained and supplied by the County Nursing Association, a voluntary body.

There is a Maternity Clinic and Infants' Welfare Centre. It is managed by a Committee of Ladies and does much valuable work.

Hospitals.

The Bodmin and East Cornwall Voluntary Hospital serves for the treatment of ordinary Medical and Surgical cases.

Part of the Cornwall Mental Hospital has been taken over to make an Emergency Hospital for the treatment of both military and civilian patients suffering from war injuries

There is an Emergency Maternity Hospital for the treatment of lying-in patients.

Sanitary circumstances of the area.

Water supply. The supply on the whole has been satisfactory as more water is coming through the mains

The quality is in need of improvement as the water is liable to contamination from surface drainage.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions have been made. The present system is working satisfactorily.

Scavenging.

There is a regular collection of house refuse by Motor Lorry which is conveyed to the dump and dealt with by controlled tipping.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Dairies, cowsheds, slaughter houses and other places where food is dealt with are regularly visited and inspected.

Housing.

No building is taking place. The Council's housing plans are for the present in abeyance

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.

There has been very little notifiable disease in the Borough outside public Institutions.

The Council's scheme offers free immunization to all children attending school and infants under five years of age.

All the children, with few exceptions, attending the County and Elementary Schools have been immunized but the number of children under five has not been so satisfactory.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Number notified.
Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3
Puerpural Pyrexia	4
Pneumonia	5
Dysentery	101
Cerebrospinal Fever	1

The cases of Enteric Fever and Dysentery were all in the County Mental Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1941—

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Repiratory		Non-Repiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age period	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total —	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.